

To: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Rodriguez, Maya
Sent: Thur 8/6/2015 11:17:35 PM
Subject: RE: EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Hey Rich, are there any updates to what caused the release? Saw an AP article that indicated EPA team was using heavy equipment when it inadvertently caused the wastewater release.

--Maya

From: Mylott, Richard [mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:50 PM
To: Rodriguez, Maya <maya.rodriguez@9news.com>
Subject: RE: EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

We're sampling water in the Animas River today. We know it contains a lot of sediment. We'll be looking closely at acidity and metals as well. Drinking water operators and other users downstream were notified by CDPHE and EPA yesterday so they could take steps to shut intakes.

From: Rodriguez, Maya [mailto:maya.rodriguez@9news.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:42 PM
To: Mylott, Richard
Subject: RE: EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Thanks, Rich, for the release.

Question: any idea what it in the water? Also, any concerns about the state of drinking water in the Durango area because of this?

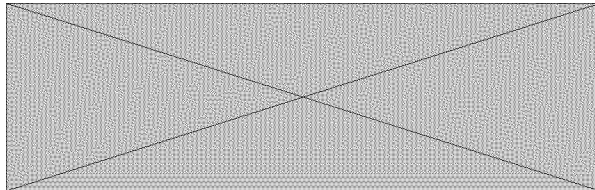
--Maya

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From: Mylott, Richard [<mailto:Mylott.Richard@epa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, August 06, 2015 2:21 PM

To: Rodriguez, Maya <maya.rodriguez@9news.com>

Subject: EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Maya—thanks for your call. I expect more info later.

Rich Mylott

303-312-6654

August 6 EPA Statement on Gold King Mine Release

Yesterday, an EPA team working to investigate and address contamination at the Gold King Mine in San Juan County, Colo. unexpectedly triggered a large release of mine waste water into the upper portions of Cement Creek. Initial estimates are that the release contained

approximately 1M gallons of water that was held behind unconsolidated debris near an abandoned mine portal. There were several workers at the site at the time of the breach, all were unharmed.

Following the release, the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment notified water users downstream so they could take appropriate steps to turn off intakes until the contaminated water passes.

The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Cement Creek and into the Animas River. The water associated with the release is obvious and highly discolored. As a precaution, EPA recommends that recreational users of the Animas River avoid contact with or use of the river until the pulse of mine water passes. Over the next several days, EPA teams will be sampling and investigating downstream locations to confirm that the release has passed and poses no additional concerns for aquatic life or water users. EPA will also be assessing damage near the mine portal and any residual releases of water at the mine site.